

**To:** Whitley, Christopher[Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]  
**From:** Sean Lamb  
**Sent:** Fri 9/6/2013 2:17:49 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Questions about West Lake Landfill for Your Merit Badge

Chris Whitley

Thank you so much for your help, those answers were perfect! I'm sorry that I didn't email you myself. my dad was unsure of your email when I did have the chance though and the one he gave me didn't work so I asked him to call and give my email the next morning.

Again thank you so much and your awnsers just completed all the requirements for my merit badge (citizenship in the nation).

Sincerely,

Sean Lamb

**From:** "Whitley, Christopher" <Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>  
**To:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2013 2:05 PM  
**Subject:** Questions about West Lake Landfill for Your Merit Badge

Sean,

Your Dad called me this morning to pass along a couple of questions that you would like for us to answer regarding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. I understand this is for part of your work toward earning a merit badge in Boy Scouts.

Here are your questions and our answers:

1. What is being done to solve the problem?

ANSWER: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently working with multiple partner agencies (including the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and local authorities) on a long-term investigation of environmental conditions at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. The ultimate goal is to determine the best final remedy for environmental contamination at the site. While that investigation is continuing, EPA and its partners are also working to ensure that the current, immediate conditions at the site remain protective of human health and the environment. When the long-term investigation is complete, EPA will propose its final remedy in a detailed plan, and the public will have a chance to review and comment on that plan before any work toward the selected remedy goes forward. Currently at least three alternative remedies are being studied: complete excavation and removal of all radiation-contaminated material from the site; partial excavation of the radiation-contaminated material, which would

then be contained in a protective structure to be built on the site; and containment of the material in its current location, with construction of a protective engineered cap over the landfill to guard against erosion and/or infiltration by wind and water. While this long-term investigation is continuing, EPA and its scientists and engineers are also working with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to monitor and respond to a situation in the separate but adjacent Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill that involves an underground smoldering event. EPA and MDNR are committed to preventing the smoldering event in the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill from having any adverse or harmful impact on the radiation-contaminated material stored in the adjacent West Lake Landfill.

2. What can young people do to help the situation?

ANSWER: The best thing that persons of any age can do to help the situation is to stay informed of the most recent developments regarding this Superfund site, and to educate themselves about the science involved in the many issues that surround it. Young people, especially, can serve themselves, as well as their families and neighbors, and future generations, by becoming familiar with the facts surrounding this site. This includes taking the time to look at the history of the site, taking an objective view of the science that is being applied to it, and maintaining a willingness to consider but carefully and thoughtfully question all suggested approaches to solving the problem.

Sean, I hope these answers prove helpful to your work toward the merit badge. From a former Boy Scout to a current one, I wish you the very best.

**Chris Whitley**

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